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We may be permitted to state that the views of our contributors and correspondents do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Wednesday Review.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The big meeting of the 26th December has come and gone, and Mr. Bonar Law must by now be a sadder though not a wiser man. His anxiety to get the Reform Bill passed before the meeting came on only shows how ignorant of Indian conditions is the Leader of the House. When he expressed his anxiety he was evidently labouring under a delusion that the Amritsar Congress was to be composed of Montagu-Moderates who would be there in a body to bless the Reform Act. But Mr. Bonar Law reckoned without the host and the President of the Amritsar Congress who may be said to represent the political idiosyncrasies of that body-else he would not be its President—has practically condemned the Bill as a little thing just as an unregenerate witness before the Joint Committee called it, in spite of Mr. Montagu's obvious resentment. Pandit Motilal Nehru in his Presidential address was even less complimentary in his references to the Reform Act than Swami Sharadananda, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, and the Pandit roundly declared that the Act was not based on the wishes of the people of India and its provisions fell short of the minimum demand made by the Congress. All along it has been evident that the nationalists would not be satisfied if the Reform Act was not an exaggerated edition of the Congress-League Scheme. The moment the Joint-Report was published wherein the Congress league scheme was pronounced impracticable by Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford, the nationalists began to condemn in advance anything which the authors of the report might do in the way of reforming the Indian administration. Their opposition has not slackened and Mr. Bonar Law might be on the look-out for a full-throated condemnation of the Reform Act by the Amritsar Congress. So much for his pains in hustling the Reform Bill through Parliament.

Ever since the Congress passed into the hands of the extremists it has ceased to be a representative Indian organisation and it is hard to understand how prominent British statesmen like Mr. Bonar Law are ignorant of the fact. It is a sad commentary on their knowledge of and interest

in Indian affairs. They do not realise that there is a party in India whose birth we may trace to the partition agitation and the boycott movement who will not look kindly on any measure which might in their opinion strengthen the bonds between England and India. One reason that was given out when the Minto-Morley scheme was introduced was that the unrest in India would disappear with the introduction of a more liberal element in the administration of the country. But the party which we are referring to at once realised that their vocation would be gone if anything was done to cement the ties between the British rule and the people of India and they set about devising measures to scare away the Government so that the Reform scheme might be held up. But Lord Minto and Lord Morley had decided upon granting the reforms in spite of the unrest and the scheme was introduced. Again the same party was chagrined at the growing popularity of Lord Hardinge and its terrorist propaganda was set in full swing. That party is now also at work and it will not rest till the British rulers are scared away from this country. Even Lord Carmichael whose sympathies with Indian aspirations are well-known and who has shown a decided partiality for Indians had to publicly express his opinion that anarchical conspiracy did exist in Bengal, that a number of young men were being lured into it by designing men who had not the courage to operate in the open, but kept in the back-ground and carried on their nefarious campaign. This feeling against British administration of any kind is more prevalent than superficial observers of Indian conditions may imagine and we have no doubt that the Punjab debacle was due to it. British statesmen may depend upon it that whatever liberal reforms they may sanction for India the anarchist party will not cease its labours and will go on spreading its terrorist creed. If the rulers are going to take their cue from that party in governing India, then good-bye to all British power and prestige. We mention this circumstance just to show that it is a vain thing to imagine that a scheme of administrative reform will put down sedition or remove discontent. There is a party which will not be conciliated. If schemes of reforms are devised to please it there will be serious disappointment. The Government must be aware that some people in the Punjab and elsewhere persisted in misrepresenting the provisions of the Rowlatt Act in spite of exlpanations, expostulations and communiques by the Government. What we would emphasise is, the consequences to the country would be disastrous, if the Government acted in the belief, that now the Reform Bill has been passed everything will go on as merrily as a marriage bell.

At the Keshub Birthday celebration in London speeches were made in appreciation of the work and worth of the great reformer. Lord Sinha told the audience that if there was a complete disappearance of inebriety and intemperance among the students of Bengal it was due to Keshub Chandra Sen. There is, however, a slight discrepancy in this respect between the estimates by Lord Sinha and Pandit Sivanath Sastri of Keshub Chandar. However that be, Lord Sinha's description of the state of affairs in Bengal when Keshub Chandar Sen preached and popularised the Brahmo Samaj is quite accurate. Keshub bagan his work, he said, when western culture and western education came in so to speak with a rush. The old restraints were loosened and generally people who took to western education became almost notorious for their departures from the wholesome customs and traditions of their ancient society. There is no doubt that the first rush of western education and culture into India had an unsettling effect upon the Indian mind. It was as much social as it was moral and intellectual. It must not be supposed that the first effects were a disastrous breakage from ancient moorings. It was more an intellectual revolt against an effete order of things, though ancient. We lay stress on this point for the reason that though as Lord Sinha mentions there might have been unwholesome departures from ancient customs and traditions, there were as great leaders as Keshub Chander Sen who, while rejoicing in the intellectual renaissance brought about by the introduction of western learning, did not lose their reverence for whatever was good and true in their social organism. We might instance men like Ranade who though they were not the contemporaries of Keshub Chandar Sen were the first products of western education. It is hard to conceive of one simpler than Ranade in social life. Yet his admiration of western institutions was no less than Keshub Chandersen's and other reformers. The intellectual revolt which we have referred to was not the fault of the new education. The great masters of thought who have enriched English literature and contributed to its becoming the pride of the Britisher could not have exercised a baneful influence on the minds of Indians who drank avidly of it. We must go elsewhere and seek for a cause. It was not the on-rush of western thought which was responsible for the departures which Lord Sinha condemns but social injustices and religious formalism which put unwholesome restraints on the minds and morals of the Indians which were responsible for them.

After the first novelty was passed aud the glamour had softened, the products of western culture in India developed a better sense of proportion in viewing things Indian. That period coincided as may be seen with the first signs of

political consciousness which found visible expressions in the organisation of the National Congress that was. The leaders of that organisation realised that side by side with their demand from the Government for political concessions and privileges they must proceed to set their own house in order, purge society of its many faults, set an example of personal purity and morality and reform themselves that they might deserve the concessions they demanded of the Government. So much so that at the first two sessions of the Congress problems which now form the planks of the social reform movement were discussed, and if we are not mistaken Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji took a leading part in those discussions. Only later on the Congress decided to confine its activities to political and economic questions and leave social matters for a separate conference which idea led to the establishment of the National Social Conference associated with the names of such distinguished Indians as Ranade, Bhandarkar and Chandavarkar. The Social Conference was till recently the one organisation which did not hesitate to point to our failings, and exhort the people to be better. From the inception of the Congress till the time when Mr. Tilak led an organised opposition to the social reform movement the effects of western education were seen in a juster appreciation by the leaders of thought of what was best in the civilisations and culture of both East and West.

But the pendulum has swung to the other extreme. Perhaps, the reaction was inevitable though we much wish it had not come at all. Owing to a combination of fortuitous circumstances the chief of them being the political confusion brought about by Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty, it has become the fashion to belaud to the skies everything Indian for no other reason than it is Indian and condemn in equal measure whatever is western for a like reason. This reaction is as unmeaning and unreasonable and as detrimental to progress as the first effects of western education which Lord Sinha rightly deplores. One visible effect of it is the practical disappearance of the National Social Conference from public activities, which was such a great feature of Christmas happenings. And again, it is notorious that any Indian who has the moral courage to allude to the short-comings of the society is hissed off a public platform, the audience resenting loudly any reference which may not be in fulsome praise of Indian institutions. The extreme tolerance or the license indulged in during Keshub's times is only matched by the extreme intolerance of these days. But, as in the past so in future years we may expect the return of a higher sense of proportion and a spirit of tolerance. Truth has been described as quiet and, perhaps, when quieter days come there will also come an appreciation of truth which is not remembered, if not ignored, in times of stress and strife. Whatever be the political future of this country we will require men of the stamp of Keshub Chander Sen and Ranade who strove hard while living to inspire into their countrymen a sense of proportion and faculty of judgment which would not condemn or praise anything in haste but will weigh things duly and accept things or reject them according to their merits or demerits and after their deaths leave their successors a heritage of clear thinking and high purpose.

One striking feature of agricultural development in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh which is mentioned in the report of the working of the Department for the year ending 30th June last is the growing number of private farms equipped and run by the Zamindars and the large land-holders. We believe that each Local Government is empowered to make rules suited to local conditions for the granting of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Act and the Agricultural Loans Act. One defect in the rules is the absence of any provision for the utilization of a portion of the loans granted under the Act to entertain Agricultural Inspectors and Demonstrators to help in the proper working of a farm. We understand that in the United Provinces those who own private farms are able to indent for the services of inspectors and demonstrators from the Department and we do not know on what conditions their services are lent. But there can be no doubt that for the first few years at least it is well to have expert advice to run a farm. Apparently the farm owners are not entertaining them from any loan under the Acts. What we wish to point out, however, is that if a farm is to be economically and soundly managed, an outlay for expert advice and guidance will not be money wasted. A provision is necessary in the rules made under the Loans Acts to enable those who obtain State loans for agricultural improvement to spend a part of the amount in employing experts. In Madras there is no provision made for such a purpose. We know of an instance where the applicant for a State loan proposed to entertain an Agricultural Inspector for the period of a year and pay him out of the loan amount. This was disallowed on the ground that there was no provision in the rules for such expenditure. If the Government are anxious that the loans obtained from them should be spent to the best advantage and not frittered away by uneconomic methods of equipping and conducting a farm, it is very necessary to amend the rules so as to include the entertainment of agricultural experts among the purposes for which State loans may be applied. We trust that the Government of Madras will be able to accept our suggestion and amend the rules accordingly.

THE
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WEDNESDAY, 31 DECEMBER, 1919.

THE WEAK SPOT IN THE REFORM SCHEME.

FOR another ten years, perhaps, we shall have to look upon the Reform Act as a settled fact and it may not do much good to criticise its provisions in detail. With less haste and more thought it might have been improved in several respects. But the sponsors were in such a dreadful hurry about it, that there has been really no time or opportunity to view the bill from the standpoint of the masses of the Indian population whose happiness must, after all, be the object of any legislation, whether undertaken here or in England. Especially, radical changes in the administration must be carried out only after convincing oneself that they are really necessary in the interests of the majority of the population and not as a concession to agitation by a discontented few. Judged by that standard we should honestly say that no case has been made out for such changes as have been proposed in the Reform Act. But, as we said no good purpose will be served by entering into a detailed criticism of the measure. We should be failing in our duty, however, if we did not point out the weak spot in the scheme and the dangers ahead in working it. It will have been seen by those who were anxious to push the Reform Bill through Parliament that the diarchy which according to Mr. Montagu and his supporters is the kernel of the whole scheme, has been opposed by extremist politicians on the one hand and the real moderates in the country as distinguished from the Montagu-moderates, on the other. The opposition of the former is on the ground that the responsible Government which the supporters of the diarchy claim as conferring on the representatives of the people is but a shadow as it is hedged in by checks and safeguards which show a deep distrust of the fitness of Indians to be in independent charge of certain branches of administration and the very idea of transferring particular subjects to be handled by ministers is not complimentary to Indian intellect or capacity for self-Government. We are disposed to sympathise with this view to some extent, in so far as the position of Indians is concerned in the machinery of the Executive Government. The present scheme is no improvement on the Minto-Morley scheme. At present the Indian Member of the Executive Council in a province is for all purposes the equal of his European colleagues including the Governor and there is no statutory restriction as to the subjects of administration he should be allowed to handle. But under the new Act the position of the Indian Minister is lowered in that it is laid down that he shall handle only certain subjects and not others and under the rules which may be made in this behalf he may be subjected to checks by the Governor-in-Council which must detract considerably from his position as a responsible member of the Government. That in a way sums up the opposition of the extremist politicians to the diarchy. The opposition of the moderates we have referred to, not the Montagu variety, is on other and more substantial grounds. There may be agreement in the view that the diarchy will offer a good opportunity to Indians for training in responsible Government. That standpoint has been made capital of by the supporters of the diarchy. In fact, Mr. Montagu and others have never wearied of telling us that if the diarchy be left out the whole Reform scheme will tumble down. It is a fanciful fear and sound public opinion in this country has not been slow in showing up the hollowness of the fear. The danger lies not in dropping diarchy but in retaining it. In the first place, it has been rather airily assumed that Mr. Montagu's magic wand will bring into existence, by a mere wave of it, an electorate intelligent enough to elect representatives from whom competent Ministers may be chosen for administering the transferred subjects. It is inconceivable how with a population of whom nearly 94 per cent are illiterate and are entire strangers to any kind of political life an electorate can be improvised to exercise the franchise intelligently and efficiently. The irony of it is that Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford have themselves admitted over and over again in the Joint Report that an intelligent exercise of the franchise will come only with the spread of education and they cannot contend that since the Joint Report was drawn up educational progress has been so rapid as to bring into existence all at once a large electorate required for the purposes of the Act. Nothing short of an educational miracle can convert an illiterate population into an intelligent electorate. Ignoring the facts of the situation the authors of the reform scheme have insisted upon diarchy being the central feature of the reform scheme which for its proper working requires the existence of conditions, the absence of which Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford have deplored. In the second place, it does not require much prophesying to say that if the reform scheme should fail of its purpose it is bound to fail because of the diarchy. To a dead certainty, at the first elections under the new scheme it is not the Montagu-moderates that will be returned at the polls but the extremist demagogues with the aid of the wire-pullers. The moderates

are sure to suffer a rout and it will be only then that they would repent of having fought for the inclusion of the diarchy which after all secures place and power not to their kind but to their inveterate opponents. It does not require much argument to show that under the diarchy the Provincial Governors will be bound by the Act to choose ministers for transferred subjects from extremists whose creed in politics is to make the continuance of British rule in this country impossible. His chosen adherents, the moderates, routed at the polls and the seats of the mighty captured by political undesirables, Mr. Montagu when it is too late will realise to what pitiable pass the administration of the country has come. It was only to avert the catastrophe that the more sober opinion both here and in England set its face steadily against the diarchy, but with an inexplicable doggedness Mr Montagu has fought for its retention and succeeded. But that success though he may gloat over it now will mean the undoing of his reform scheme and as a necessary corollary a grave set-back to the country.

THE FUTURE OF INDIAN WOMEN.

Mrs. N. C. Sen who read a paper on this subject at a meeting of the East India Association, London, takes an optimistic view of the future of women in India. In these days most men and also women are optimistic to a degree and the old sentiment that the golden age is past, is slowly giving way to the belief not always supported by good reason, that the future of the world is going to be very much brighter than most of us think. It is no doubt pleasant to cherish feelings of optimism and really there is no harm in thinking that we are going to be better off than we have been ever before. If the men in India are going to be better it must follow that women-folk will be better too. That is the central idea of Mrs. Sen's discourse and it is evident that she builds her hopes not only on our present conditions but on the past record of Indian women She has cited several historical instances of women scholars, states-women and others who showed what women were capable of in fields which men generally claim as their own. There is no reason why the past may not be repeated in the future and Indian heroines may not appear on the world's stage again. But idle speculations will not be of much avail in raising the status of women. There must be a steady programme of effort for the uplift of women and it is necessary to define exactly what the position of women in India is to-day and what the position should be and can be if Indian nationhood is to be a fact and not a political shibboleth. We must first realise the circumstance that the percentage of literates among women is about 1 per cent and the fact is sufficiently discouraging. Unless that percentage is appreciably raised it will be idle to speculate on the future of Indian women and build high hopes of her destiny. It is not the enfranchisement of women that will prove her salvation. What is essential is that she should be given that amount of education which would enable her to realise her pitiable condition and raise herself in the human scale. No political progress worth the name is possible so long as our women continue in a state of abject ignorance. Side by side with the education of boys the education of girls must be carried on at an equally rapid rate and it is only then the inequality of the sexes so marked will disappear. It is not necessary to enter into an academic discussion as to what sort of education should be given to women so as to suit her mental capacity and sphere in life. Such a distinction in the field of education accounts for the miserably slow pace at which women's education in India has proceeded We must give up the notion that the sphere of women is the kitchen and her education should be adapted to the kitchen range. Education should recognise no differences of sex and in education what is wholesome for a boy cannot be deleterious in the case of a girl. There should be no restriction placed either in the quality or in the quantity of education which a woman may receive. Mrs. Sen points out 'men and women had the same education; women were on the same footing with men, and were sometimes even higher, and were not, as a rule, inferior to them in intellect. As early as Vedic times we see women helping to compose laws, writing scriptures, thinking out many philosophical problems, and discovering many truths. In connection with this I shall mention Maitrayee and Gargee, the names of two great women sages; but there had been scores of them. Those who take any interest in this subject will do well to read some Sanscrit books, or translations of them, regarding the women of ancient India.' It is only when Indian men are able to take a more liberal view of women's education that the progress of the country can be assured. The future of Indian women will therefore depend almost exclusively on their education and if that is not given it is idle to believe that political enfranchisement will raise them in the scale. The dead weight of ignorance is there and it will have to be removed before any progress can be achieved. While we welcome such discourses as that of Mrs. N. C. Sen we should tell our friends in England that the presence of such ladies as she argues no appreciable advance in the general condition of women in India. These exceptional cases of Indian women merely prove the rule though it may show the inherent capacity of Indian women.

A TYPICAL ENGLISH HOME.

BY ETHEL BELL.

The approach of Christmas brings to some of us sweet memories of our English home.

In spite of our now revelling in bright sunshine and friendly surroundings, there comes into our hearts, a feeling of home-sickness, which we cannot control.

Let us recall a few scenes of our home, and ask ourselves what attraction it holds, which is able to call out so much affection.

Let us take as a model, a home standing in the county of Gloucestershire, in a little out-of-the-way village, whose green fields and quiet medows have not yet been disturbed, by the sounds of running trains.

The house stands in extensive grounds, and is not visible to pedestrians, on the road. Only the great iron entrance-gates can be seen, engraved with a shield, upon which the family coat-of-arms is represented. The little white lodge stands just inside the gates, covered in ivy, with its diamond shaped glass windows.

You are not kept waiting; for, the lodge keeper is always on the alert, and will drop you a polite courtsey, and give a welcome smile, as you drive into the gates.

What a wonderful drive it is up to the house, with the old trees, all so familiar to your eyes; and the broad drive, without a weed to be seen. In front of the house, a wonder meets your eye, in the beautiful, large green lawn, whose grass is not like any other,—for age and careful tending can alone produce such a soft, velvet appearance.

There stands the old house, with its towers, revealing by its shape and structure, the work of many generations, who have made it their home.

Some have enlarged it, by adding on a wing; others pulled it down, rebuilding it, as much as possible, after its original style. As the hall door opens, the beautiful old fireplace can be seen, with its inviting seats built-in. You can also see the armour, shining in the hall, which you proudly revere, as having been worn by an ancestor in the days of long ago.

If I took you over that old house, you would tire of it. The portrait gallery, for instance, can hold no interest for you, except as works of Art. But, to those in the home, some of those faces add to the sunshine of their lives, while others reprimand them, speaking silent words of admonition.

How well you can remember standing in front of that brave soldier's portrait, and building so many castles in the air for yourself, of heroic deeds which you would do in the future.

When, as a child, you had committed some grave misdemeanour, you remember having crept past that severe looking ancestor, whose eyes were so full of reproach.

Those portraits can be a great factor to a child's education, in the dear old English homes, so full of sacred memories.

Let us wander through the Library, and see its endless books, of priceless value, the bindings and leaves of which, shew us the deep reverence with which they have been treated in the past.

We can pass through the long music-hall, and then through into the Ball room, where many a romantic dance has taken place.

Then on to the drawing-room and next into the dining-room, with its wonderful old sideboard, upon which stands some family silver, shining so brightly.

What a famous billiard room we pass through, on the way, and how many fine breaks have been recorded in that room.

There are plenty of surprise-nooks and corners, together with some very pretty boudoirs, which we pass on the way.

For bedrooms, you are directed to a certain wing of the house, whose suites of rooms are designated by their individual colours.

It is the duty of the housekeeper to assign the suites of rooms to each of the visiting guests.

The old housekeeper, the butler and the many old retainers also add to the attractions of the home.

Whilst the Master and family are in residence, the rooms are never empty, as continual house-parties are given, consisting of many different guests. The making up of the lists of invitations, for these parties, falls to the duty of the Lady-of-the-house; and it needs consummate tact and thought, to insure that the chosen guests are all of congenial spirits, one with another.

We must not forget to mention the little Chapel, belonging to the family to which everyone finds their way on Sundays, and Feast days; and where the voices of both old and young may be heard singing songs of thanks for the many blessings in their homes.

The Christmas preparations are of a most arduous kind.

Many weeks before the Feast, it is customary for all in the house, to visit the kitchen, for the purpose of stirring the pudding, an oldfashioned idea, that by so doing, good luck will be insured you, for the twelve coming months.

The Christmas presents have all to be chosen, purchased and ticketted. Among the trees, *one* is especially prepared for the guests, family and children, the last of which are so great in number, as Christmas is essentially their day.

The servants' hall has its own particular tree, with a wonderful capacity for producing innumerable quantities of useful presents; and a dance is always given in the hall, for all the retainers,

which the Master, family and guests are expected to attend.

Chiefest of all trees, however, is the huge one, for the children of the tenantry and village, which is a sight to behold. Every bough is crammed to the full, and each child is given a useful garment, wrapped up in paper, as well as toy, oranges and sweetmeats.

What sounds of merriment can be heard, from morning till night in that dear old home, and each little cottage around! We are all one in that remote little village, in friendship and interest and the Master and family have their eyes in every place, to see that each of the tenants have every comfort and necessity provided.

The Master often visits the men's Club, which has been built, for the purpose of bringing happiness and fresh interests, to all the men on the place. It has its billiard table, and all sorts of indoor games, together with a writing room, where they can write their letters, and also a very good library, with all the papers and magazines of the day.

The Lady-of-the-House is likewise just as busy, visiting her poor, and establishing all sorts of Clubs for the use and comfort of the mothers and daughters.

She has a visiting nurse ready for them at hand, in cases of illness.

The tenants revere and serve both Master and Mistress, in exchange for all the care and attention, which they receive at their hands, bringing all sorrows and joyful happenings to their knowledge.

Many a young man went out to fight, who brought back honours, rejoicing not so much for his own sake, as the fact that he would hear his Master speak those two words of such value—"Well done".

Truly this English home is a glorious institution, where unity reigns supreme, and the Master is watching the progress of his tenantry, and reproving and encouraging them, wherever, whenever required.

When the War came, and this grand old house was turned into a hospital, for the sick and wounded the Lady-of-the-House, with the help of her many friends, nursed and tended the patients, so skillfully and tenderly, that the portraits of the ancestors might well have looked down, on this noble self-sacrifice, with smiles of pride!

WHOOPING COUGH.

When your child has whooping cough be careful to keep the cough loose and expectoration easy by giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as may be required. This remedy will also liquify the tough muscus and make it easier to expectorate. It has been used successfully in many epidemics and as it contains no narcotic or other injurious substances it is perfectly safe. For sale by all chemists and storekeepers.

THE INDIAN SOWCAR.

By "G. K."

It was a crazy old place, the quarters of the district officer in Kharugpore. The Government could not offer him anything better than that for his stay in that locality and so the rambling old place with the garden around it kept somehow, was the civil servants' 'Dulce Domum' when Kharugpore fell to his lot to manage and look after.

Matilda with all her horse-sense was extremely dissatisfied with the place, though I pointed out to her that the drawing-room had a planked floor, the frame-work over the half-screen doors was delicately carved and the tall round pillars of the verandah with its dark-green cane-blinds looked imposing from the outside.

She objected to the dark gaping cellars underneath where the servants generally took rest and threw the lumber. The old *Khansamah* a dried-up ancient in white clothes had already whispered into her ear that two sahibs had died in that place.

"Of Jones I do not know. In the case of Dillnot it was a clear care of apoplexy dear. Poor fellow! though he was clever and capable, and mastered the district he could not master the whisky bottle and so he died" I told her.

She gave a shivery shrug to her shoulders and said that the place killed him. But Matilda was not the sort to brood over things. She smiled and was her own sweet self again in a few days and the old place was not really so bad as she thought it would be. Soon under her vigilant supervision every nook and corner was tidied up and the gardeners worked with their spade and made the beautiful lawn surrounding the house look smug and trim and in a fortnight we were getting a feeling of cosy domesticity within the four walls of the ancient solitary house. Matilda laughed at her fears and agreed with me that it was apoplexy brought on a constitution saturated with too much whisky that made an end of poor Dillnot or Deel-nut Sab as the *Khansamah* spelt it.

The home mail brought a sheaf of letters to Matilda, and in one of them she got the happy news, that her niece Dorothy and her husband a lieutenant in the Horse Guards were expected for Christmas at Kharugpore. Dorothy was only recently married to the young lieutenant, and the young couple apparently meant to make a dramatic entry into Kharugpore. Matilda was all aglow with enthusiasm to give them a good time in India the land of our adoption and I was glad she had a lot of occupation that way, in planning things for them, outings, picnics and life flowed pleasantly at home and office for me, and we really did not know that it was now nearly a year since our arrival at Kharugpore and Xmas was fast approaching.

"We are going to have a nice young couple dear. I wonder how nice and tall Dorothy must

have grown with the wealth of her golden hair and smiling eyes, and the young man-er-must be handsome and pleasant too."

"I hope so dear. Else your pretty niece would not have chosen him for a husband. She has I believe a better eye for manly beauty—" Matilda gave an affectionate tap on my cheek and silenced me. If she did not do it she was no Matilda to me!

Dorothy with the golden hair and smiling blue eyes and her tall imposing looking husband came and we greeted them warmly on arrival.

* * * * *

Dorothy was very pretty, and extremely timid and looked upon things Indian with all the wonder and sometimes of childish awe of an English girl. Her husband Lt. Villiers was gay and irresponsible and looked at Indian life with a frown of contempt. He was a fighting man, and the air of defiance was in every line of his face and carriage. But he was a good-hearted fellow all the same.

We had a jolly little party on Xmas night. Mr. Martin and Mr. Flukes, the one of the Indian police and the other a business agent out here for the time had joined us. It was an agreeable affair the dinner deliciously cooked and daintily served, and we drank the health of the young couple and Lt. Villiers made a humourous little speech which pleased Matilda and Dorothy immensely.

After dinner we adjourned to the lawn outside and smoked our cigarettes and sipped our coffee which Lt. Villiers said was first class. Lolling comfortably in our canvas chairs we sat chatting in the bewitching whiteness of the Indian moonlight. All round us the extensive grounds was a dappled land of light and shadow and our garden looked like a beautiful picture soft, silent and peaceful in the silvery radience.

In the middle of our talk Villiers suddenly stopped and turned his head towards the moon-lit road at the distance in front of our compound and intently heard. We heard the clatter of horses hoofs coming in a spirited canter and the noise was nearing and was more audible. In a few minutes we saw a beautiful black charger with an Indian Sowcar entering the gate. He loosened the reins and let his horse walk up the drive. We heard the clank of bits and the creaking of the saddle. Our eyes were turned to him. He must be a lancer of the Sikh Regiment and carried a lance in his right hand and rode with all the air and familiarity of a man who was accustomed to the place.

He did not care a rap for any one of us. The stiff bearded man with his face of bronze under the large khaky turban he looked steadily before him and was now nearing the porch. As soon as he came near the porch, he reined in his horse, and stopped and saluted with all the stiff gravity of a military man, and without a word wheeled round his horse and was going, "who are you?" cried Villiers, the rider did not hear.

"Kon hai? Khade Karo," I shouted in Hindustani and still the rider never heard. He did not even look behind or attempt to stop.

Villiers was young. His blood was up. He ran after the retreating horseman flourishing a cane calling him '*Badmash*' the one Hindustani word he had picked up on the P and O.

We saw Villiers's cane coming on the croup of the horse and there was stifled groan and the rider and horse swung past the gate under the shadow o a great tree. We saw Villiers fall prone on the gravel drive at the gate and ran up to him. He had become unconscious and had bruised his forehead. I shouted for the *Khansamah*. He came running and the bearer and Syce ran after him making an uproar. My wife and Dorothy were out of their beds and appeared in the verandah in their night gowns horrified at the noise.

"Bap-re" cried the old *Khansamah* and smote his forehead as the sight. It is the Sowcar Sab. It is he who killed Sahab Jones, and Deel-nut Sab. He comes once in two years. I am a fool not to have told you. Did Saheb beat him? Ah! ha! that is what Jones Sab did. Deel-nut Sab did. They died within a year Sab Ah! ha! what ill luck."

I asked the old croaker to be silent and gave brandy and water to Villiers, who was now regaining consciousness. In a few minutes he laughed at what had happened. He was a brave fellow and even cursed the phantom Rider calling him a "I—I scoundral.

We put it down to our erst-while convivality and too much of strong coffee Villiers had consumed and never thought of the matter.

In a year's time we heard the sad news, from Dorothy that Villiers had died! It was a drowning accident.

WORK, SYSTEMS, & FEELINGS.

By 'Workman'.

How intimately the Feelings are affected by the Systems under which we work is a matter of common knowledge and experience. How the efficiency of Systems is affected by the feelings with which we work them is perhaps not equally apparent. Consideration of the action and reaction of Systems and Feeling on one another is worth study as an aid to Happiness, since no work can be performed without worry, waste or disappointing results, except by a good System.

What is a System, and who invented it?

Systems are born of Habits, knocking up against bungling methods that hurt our bodies or our feelings. We have lost something; damaged our tools; irritated somebody; wasted time in argu-

ments without point or usefulness; forgotten or refused duty; destroyed confidence in us by likes and dislikes; hugged grievances due to our own or sombody else's inefficiency, bad temper, or ill will; failed to keep smiling over troubles that cannot soon be cured and must be endured.

Those who do not take note of these and similar knocks to avoid trouble in future, can hardly be said to gain by experience. Some dominant Habit or wrong Thought obscures their wits; as often as not resulting in hate against others, and disgust with the orderly restraints of any Systems.

What is a 'Good' System, and "who pronounces it good"? Goodness is a relative term depending largely on the 'motive' behind work of any sort.

A certain Ruler addressing Jesus asked Him saying "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said unto him, "Why callest thou me good none is good save One, that is, God".

So also no work of man is perfect; though the Divinity within is always prompting effort to reconcile work systems with the Supreme System observable in all the works of the Almighty.

We can go a great way towards this in regard to our work systems and spirit of working them, but to be practical we must not be led away by the spirit of a perfect Ideal to think and hastily do foolish things. In the evidence of the War we have a patent example of the fact, that it is the motive behind the work that most matters; and if that is not directed to the highest Ideal, backed up by good practical methods and approved systems of co-operation, we merely lay the foundation for greater troubles than we have suffered under, by spreading wider the area of possible conflicts.

The essential needs of Humanity cannot be met without the obligation on all individuals to work for the means of subsistence. The work includes a few principal operations, for which Systems of cooperation over it require to be organised.

All we possess comes from work on the Land. Production and Distribution are undertaken by two great bodies of workers to supply world demand. But who knows and can measure the Demand, and where it arises. To know this is to be able to regulate both Production and Distribution, without waste of time or effort. Without this knowledge the supply and distribution will not be regular, of good quality, or cheap. But without a Central League with good Offices to arrange matters, how is it possible to know all about, and regulate work of this kind?

The first requirement of a System that will meet the case is evidently to establish good local Governments and Offices everywhere, encourage each Local Government to Produce enough Food to support its own population and to Trade with any Surplus available.

But. Stable Local Government cannot be established universally or protected in the work of their peoples without a world Working System which must include a World Centre of Administration respected and supported by all Nations.

The lead in this matter has devolved on Graat Britain and France because they went to War to protect all small States, which were being attacked by Germany on a regular System.

Meanwhile the ideal of independence with local autonomy, but with protection from attack by somebody-without paying for it—appears to be very popular, except with those who have incurred all the expense and sacrifices in making it possible. Broken Empires may find a convenient way out of their liabilities if they can dissolve up into separate States; but can hardly escape the responsibility for the War gamble in which they hoped for large profits out of Strategems and unwholy combines.

Neutrals who kept out of the fray as long as possible made large War profits; they could afford to pay for World protection and should do so, before their turn may come, from not joining the League.

The feeling of giving up any modicum of independence is not pleasing, till the roason for it is realised. We can overcome aversion, for a paramount purpose, by exercise of the will.

Cynics have been known to remark that 'Virtue' is self-denial of a present pleasure in the hope and expectation of thereby receiving many greater ones.

But people will cheerfully throw away their lives for love or a Principle, and may even be glad to pay their Debts if they have the wherewithal to do so!

What they like to know is the amount of real value received and the form in which payment is desired. The World Financiers can make out a money bill, but that is not everything. If Peace is permanently secured every Free State has received Capital Value, thereby enabling it to derive Revenue therefrom and save Expenses while safely engaging in World Trade and Commerce.

This should be made plain by the experts; but Statesmen seem to work as if everybody knew everything, leaving the mass to find out what they can from gossips, newspapers and pedlars. It says much for the control of its feelings by the masses, that they can for a good cause go cheerfully over the top and kick a foot ball to the trenches of the enemy playing the game on their side with rifles, bombs and poison gas!

The Hague Convention tried to regularise this sort of game, bur Germany would not play it straight. It stands to reason that with a general Peace Insurance System the whole of the expense of International Armaments may be saved, and a contribution from all would soon pay off all the War Debts. If the Allies are to provide the International Police, it must be paid for; other-

wise their Trade and Commerce will be handicapped in the International Competition to supply world demand, owing to the excess cost of production and distribution of their commodities. Germany hopes for this, and now only wants a mercantile fleet and the world's raw products to set her undamaged Workshops going full swing.

Feelings work attractively, in Families, Nationalities, Races, Castes and Creeds; but they do not supply the place of duties under organised Systems for Work essential to the well being of all. The feeling of Brotherhood is produced and has a practical value, when all men and women are engaged in work to supply a universal common need under a Good System. It is this System we want; and to secure it we must be prepared for the personal sacrifices called for in all Co-operative Organisations.

The value of Feelings good and bad in the diplomacy of aspirants for power is well understood. To excite them in the masses is a cheap way of attracting a following, depending largely on the 'Belief' in Truth or Falsehood.

If Falsehood is to be banished from the World's work systems Truth must everywhere be proclaimed from the House Tops. For instance—What is the Truth about the Proceedure being followed regarding Reforms of the Administration of Government in India, and what is their object?

It is a postulate in organising World Economic development that Production will be stimulated by Local Self Government, and Fiscal Reponsibilities for the same.

Nobody has ever disputed this in its application to India. It has always existe under a most rigidly guarded system of Financial Control checked by the Government of India. Till the great War occurred there was hardly any public Debt worth speaking of which could not eassily be borne, and the interest paid.

The protection of India from foreign aggression is a joint responsibility of India and Great Britain, agreed to for the economic advantages resulting to both. As long as this System exists the Foreign Policy,—to make it effective and as economical as possible,—must rest on Great Britain, influencing the balance of Power in the European situation.

Till the balance pivots somewhere between the East and the Western Hemispheres, or all countries Federate by Continents, and then form a central league of them for economic development and Protection of all States, there will always be ill regulated Competition between them, and need for new Systems of adjustment of Powers and Resposibilities from time to time.

To accomplish these adjustments without causing unnecessary frictions and trouble, Patience and Good feeling are indispensable, while Systems are improved or altered to suit Local Work conditions, which differ all the world over. Feelings must be controlled while Work methods are being improvised; which is more or less a mechanical and scientific process, designed to secure efficiency and economy of united effort.

But when we proceed to business to do the needful we are at once met by the conflict of our feelings with the amount of Knowledge we possess and the intelligence to use it!

The primary instinct is to use mass Force to gain our objects instead of inducing it by a reasoned scientific lead.

The next is to use the feelings born of our own environment and Work Systems to recommend our System for adoption in other people's affairs, and in environments that have produced quite different feelings!

So we see the muddle arising, when Delegates from India to the Reforms Committee in London, return with the obsessions regarding 'mass movements' of British Labour, and immediately proceed to agitate for similar formations here, copying the effete English Parliamentary System which is in the process of reverting to India's own original Ancient Systems, still carried on by the Civil Services in India by European and Indian co-operation!

The Mass movments of Labour in the North of England culminating in the recent strikes differ only in character from those organised by Germany for overcoming the world by force of Arms. They have defeated their own objects of coercing Capital and compelling Consumers to submit to united Factory Domination, and arbitrary rule.

Demands for Fixed Wages and short hours for all England having no reference to world demand and supply or Local conditions of work affecting all consumers including the Union members pevented from accommodating themselves to varying circumstances has given rise to an entirley new system in the south, practically foreshadowing the absolute collapse of the aggressive Unionism of the North. An account of it appears in 'the World's Work, for October last entitled "Payment by Results", by James Armstrong in which an Employer admits the workmen of a Factory to his complete confidence in sharing the profits and losses of his business due to the rise and fall of demand for his wares.

Further than this he so arranges his details of Departments that he can account the effect of out

A GERM DESTROYER.

There is no danger whatever from lock jaw or blood poison resulting from a wound when Chamberlain's Pain Balm is promptly applied. It is an antiseptic and destroys the germs which cause these diseases. It also causes wounds to heal without maturation and in one-third the time required by the usual treatment. For sale by all chemists and storekeepers.

turn in different sections, and pays for quantity to the section. Thus if a section turned out 200 articles while another only turned out 100, each man in the section would in the former case earn double what the latter would in the day's work. This, if found to work satisfactorily in the long run, is a magnificent solution of the difficulty of combining the interests of Labour and Capital; eliminating all the ill feeling hitherto created by the open and free individual or combined competition of Labourers and Employers to supply Consumers. The competition in future would be by the combined action of Capital and Labour *in each Factory and Department* of it against that of every other Factory and their Departments.

The stimulation to effort owing to remuneration proportioned thereto would be as great as that experimented with in Mesopotamia by paying cash to the coolies for the loads they individually lifted instead of daily wages.

Such are the Economic effects of good Systems in getting work done by minute attention to efficient and economical methods in detail, to suit the work people, their capacities and conditions of their environment. Then where do Sentiment and the Feelings come in to mar the development of such advanced systems?

It is chiefly when the minds of the masses are worked on to create ill feeling against the classes, and thereby gain support for a propaganda and push it by Force, when it fails to find a place by reason of its soundness, in the well studied operations of Government, needing no force whatever but Public opinion to back it.

NATIVE STATES.

A Progressive State.

There are some very interesting and commendable features in the report on the working of the State of Chota Udeypur, issued recently, by the Dewan of the State, Mr. J. P. Modi. The report covers the year 1918-1919. The total revenue of the State for the year preceding was Rs. 8,88,516, the average for the last five years being Rs. 7,55,645. The State made large contributions to the war fund and His Highness the ruler of the State made a personal donation to war funds of Rs. 25,000 per annum for as long as the war lasted. In addition to this, His Highness alone purchased War Loan to the sum of Rs. 2,07,500 and made generous concessions to soldiers from his State as well as recruiting officers. The servants of the State were awarded special allowances to meet the contingency of war. Under the heading "agriculture," it is pointed out that, the monsoon for the year preceding having been unsatisfactory, sundry of crops were naturally deficient, and the poor and middle-classes would have been handicapped had it not been for the State control over rice. Apprehensions are stated in the report with regard to the birth rate of the State. In the previous year, the total number of births was 2,796, while that of the year before was 3,238. The total numbers of deaths for the same years were 4,258 and 1,592 respectively, the reasons for the high rate being given as influenza and famine. Education appears to be satisfactory. There are four State schools, while 27 schools in the zillahs and female schools also have been started, which are taken due advantage of. In order to facilitate the progress of education, primary education is free.

Times of India.

Gondal State :-Birthday Announcmeent.

The following are among the recent birthday announcements of the Thakore Saheb.—The boons and concessions recently conferred amount to a permanent charge of Rs. 2,00,000 (Two lacs) per year. These are enumerated below:—1. All employees working full time and drawing salaries up to Rs. 100 per mensem to be given an increase of 35 per cent from 1st November 1919. In no case shall it be less than Rs. 4 per mensem. Servants drawing more than Rs. 100 and less than Rs. 135 should be brought upto Rs. 135 per mensem. 2. Service grades to be improved 3. (a) Permanent and temporary full time monthly paid menials of the Gondal Railway to draw Rs. 4 per mensem irrespective of their pay. (b) Permanent and temporary employees of the Gondal Railway drawing upto Rs. 100 per mensem to be granted an increase of 35 per cent per mensem on their present pay subject to the condition that no one shall draw more than Rs. 135 per mensem in all.

(c) The minimum pay of clerks will be Rs. 20 per mensem.

(d) The minimum pay of signallers will be Rs. 25 per mensem.

(e) The minimum pay of Station Masters and Head Guards will be Rs. 30 per mensem. 4. Rules regarding the grant of gratuities to subordinate employees of the Gondal Railway including menials shall be framed on the lines of those laid down by the Railway Board and come into effect from 1st January 1920. 5. Increases mentioned in para 1 to be granted to scholarship-holders. 6 The salaries of the various officers and others to be increased to various amounts. 7. Punitive police posted at Upleta and Bedia to be withdrawn. 8. A sarpay of Rs. 10,000 to be presented to Sheth Nur Mahomed Ahmed of Gondal in appreciation of his services to the State as well as the people during the recent famine.

UNNECESSARY WORDS.

Why waste words and advertising space in describing the many points of merit in Chamberlain's Cough Remedy? The most fastidious are satisfied when we state that it cures colds and coughs from any cause, and that it contains absolutely no narcotics or injurious substances. For sale by all chemists and storekeepers.

RAILWAY NOTES.

Pay of Engineers.

DELHI, 13th Dec.—The Governor-General in Council, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, has sanctioned the following revised scales of pay for the permanent Engineer service of State Railways, with effect from 30th August, 1919:—

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 1st year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale—Nil; junior scale Rs. 450; Provincial Service, senior scale nil, junior scale Rs. 300.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 2nd year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale nil, junior scale Rs. 500; Provincial Service senior seale nil, junior scale Rs. 340.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 3rd year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale nil, junior scale Rs. 550; Provincial Services, senior scale, nil, junior scale, Rs. 380.

Assistant and Executive Engineer, 4th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 700, junior scale Rs. 600. Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 500, junior scale Rs. 420.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 5th year of service. Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 750, junior scale Rs. 650; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 540, junior scale Rs. 450.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 6th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 800, junior scale Rs. 700; Provincial Service, senior scale, Rs. 580, junior scale Rs. 500.

Assistant and Executive Engineers 7th year of service, Imperial Services, senior scale Rs. 850, junior scale Rs. 750; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 620, junior scale Rs. 540; Assistant and Executive Engineers, 8th year of Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 900; junior scale Rs. 800; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 660, junior scale 580.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 9th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale, Rs. 950. Junior scale Rs. 850; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 700; junior scale Rs. 620.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 10th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,000; junior scale, Rs. 900; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 740, junior scale Rs. 660.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 11th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,050, junior Rs. 950; provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 780, junior scale Rs. 700.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 12th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,100, junior scale Rs. 1000; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 820, junior scale Rs. 740.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 13th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,150 junior scale Rs. 1,050; Provincial Service senior scale Rs. 860, junior scale Rs. 780.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 14th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,200, junior scale Rs. 1,100; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 900, junior scale Rs. 820.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 14th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,250, junior scale 1,150; Provincial Service senior scale (?)

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 16th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,300, junior scale, nil; Provincial Service, senior scale, Rs. 1,000, junior scale nil.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 17th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,350, junior scale, nil; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,050, junior scale, nil.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 18th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,400, junior scale, nil; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,100, junior scale, nil.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 19th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,450; junior scale nil; Provincial Service, senior scale, Rs. 1,150; junior scale, nil.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 20th year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale, Rs. 1,500, junior scale, nil; Provincial Service senior scale, Rs. 1,200, junior scale, nil.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 21st year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale, Rs. 1,500, junior scale, nil; Provincial Service, senior scale, Rs. 1,200, junior scale nil.

Assistant aud Executive Engineers, 22nd year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale, Rs. 1,500, junior scale nil; Provincial Service senior scale, Rs. 1,200, junior scale, nil.

Assistant and Executive Engineers, 23rd year of service, Imperial Service, senior scale Rs. 1600, junior scale, nil; Provincial Service, senior scale Rs. 1,250, junior scale, nil.

Superintending Engineers Rs. 1,750-100-2,150 for both Imperial and Provincial Services; Chief Engineers Rs. 2,750-125-3,000, both Imperial and Provincial Service.

The increments will be given for approved service only, but after the first increment has been admitted by the Agent or Engineer in-Chief, under whom the officer is serving, subsequent increments may be drawn on the date on which they are due and may be admitted in audit without the sanction of higher authority, provided that the Railway Board has not issued an order withholding the increment in any particular case and subject to the provision of paragraph 3 below. Pay on the junior scale will be drawn by officers holding charges of less importance than a district charge, but no such officer will be allowed to draw more than the pay of the eigth year of service on the junior scale, unless the Railway Board are satisfied that he is fully qualified to hold charge of an important district.

Pay on the senior scale will be drawn by officers holding charges of not less importance than the charge of a district. Permanent service rendered in the ranks of Chief and Superintending Engineers, before their seniors in the ordinary line, on special condition as regards relative seniority, and the initial salary which each officer now in the service will draw under the new scales of pay, will be determined by the Railway Board. In determining the initial pay under the new scales it should be understood that, though the Railway Board is accorded full power to fix the pay of any officer within the maximum admissible for his length of service, no officer whose promotion has been returned in the past is, by reason of length of service, entitled to claim a higher rate of pay under the new scales, than that admissible to the officer immediately above him in the seniority list.

The Franco-Ethiopian Railway :—

The terminus of the Franco-Ethiopian Railway lies a short distance outside the town. It is a metre-gauge line with small but powerful locomotive and good rolling-stock constructed in France. The officials and many of the running-staff employees are French and so far as my experience goes they are courteous and even friendly in their treatment of passengers of all races. Of the latter there is a great variety on every train—Sonalis, Arabs, Greeks, French, Indians, a few Abyssinians

and an Englishman now and then. But it should be easy to maintain friendly relations between officials and passengers in the leisurely atmosphere of this Railway. Hurry and pressure are necessarily absent from a line which works four days a week and then daylight only. A mixed train leaves each terminus on Tuesdays and Saturdays. In addition goods trains run according to the amount of traffic on hand. Owing to the difficulty of policing a line traversing about two hundred miles of desert where at any point the nomadic Somali (who disapproves of railways) may indulge his propensity for ripping up the tract it is practically impossible to run at night. This means of course, great delay in transit, and some extra expense to passengers who are obliged to resort to hotels at Dire-Daoua and Haouache, there being no sleeping accommodation on board the trains. The fares however, are moderate and including meals and hotels *enroute* Rs. 150 should carry a first-class passenger over the whole distance to Addis-Abeba.—*Times of India.*

Railway and Harbour Schemes:—

Sir J. D. REES asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Governor-General in Council is taking any and if so what action in respect of the Raipur-Vizagapatam railway and the Vizagapatam harbour schemes.

Mr. MONTAGU: The construction of a harbour at Vizagapatam by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company has been approved in principle and will be carried out when funds can be allocated to it. The first 48 miles of the Raipur-Vizagapatam Railway project (from Vizayanagram to Parvatipuram, were completed and opened in 1909. The remainder of the project is in abeyance for the present owing to more urgent demands on the funds available for railway construction.

Sir J. D. REES. Does the Right Hon. gentleman foresee any near date at which funds will be available for this harbour project?

Mr. MONTAGU: I should not like to name a date. It depends on the conflicting claims of other railway projects.

Literary Notes And Announcenments.

The Future of American Literature.

There is nothing unpleasant in this prospect. The average American novel of to-day is a poor piece of work, because it is cumbered with overgrown characters who expound outgrown sentiments. Hawthorne was a provincial with genius; most of his successors have been provincials without that qualification. Only on coming to the humorists is the bulk found to be unashamedly native, and, therefore, impressive. Rupert Brooke included jokes among the fine things at which America beat modern England. We all give Mark Twain and his brethren the tribute of heartiest laughter. We are even a little jealous that we have not their art of making fun, but though the humorists are splendid fellows, the Americans are a grave people who, I fear, are apt to look on Europe as the frivolous continent. They cannot be content that we should be occasionally tempted to think of their indigenous literature as one huge, though very good, joke stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

In various ways, however, their men and women of letters are casting about for an interpretation of national life and ideals. One group is interesting itself in Sioux and Choctaw poetry. Its members are as much on the wrong track as the enthusiast for unadulterated English who would have me mould my style on the Venerable Bede; but they are symptomatic. They show, at least, a decent discontent with imitations of Victorian England. The high standard reached by the short story from the age of Pœ and Irving, through Bret Harte, down to O. Henry and the present day, is also something considerable to the good. Here the triumph of American craftsmanship has been conspicuous. A good short story reflects a quite extraordinary amount of credit on its author. In my mind there is more doubt as to what estimate should be made of its habitual readers. Where the population of any country to show themselves unwilling to read anything which needed greater concentration, I should fear a certain scrappiness in its future culture.

Fortunately, our hopes have not to end where they begin. In literature there is no healthier sign than the critical attitude, and the best American writers of to-day are all critical. In vanished times of New England's hegemony there was, also, much criticism, but it was usually of Europe or the slave-owning South. Steadfastly it avoided self. Maliciously, but with more than a grain of truth, one Harvard professor wrote of this tendency to look abroad for faults as good proof that New England and old England were, after all, at heart a nation one and indivisible. The modern writers, particularly the novelists, are free from this reproach. Without sparing, they turn on people and things immediately about them. For evidence one need not drag Mr. Uptan Sinclair from his jungle. With equal honesty, but without fanaticism, Mr. Wintson Churchill range from the churches to clean government, and is always a reformer. Incurably to solumn he may be, but Mrs. Wharton has a lighter touch, and her satires on the position of her sex, certain aspects of New York life, and plutocratic society are immensely effective. No woman writing in our common language has a higher place among contemporary novelists. My country right or wrong, but especially when its actions are open to adverse comment, is a unnatural sentiment in a young State. It is the equivalent to a high protective tariff. I have no mind to upbraid it, but it does show a patent lack of confidence. The scouring of national weaknesses warns one, on the other hand, of a deep reserve of strength.—D. Willoughby in the *Outlook.*

Biography and Novels.

It is gratifying to notice that biography shows distinct signs of renewing the popularity to which it had attained in the years immediately preceding the war. Some of the most sought-after issues of the autumn season have been works of this class, and there is evidently a large section of the reading public which is ready to welcome almost any thing in the way of personal memiors orreminiscences. This, surely, is all to the good, as tending to remove the reproach that, for the average English reader, "a book" is synonymous with a "novel," and that nothing else but fiction really matters. It must be admitted that some support has been given to this change by the statistics of the public libraries, which have invariably shown an enormous preponderance of novels over the borrowed books of any other class. Let people enjoy plenty of fiction—good fiction—by all means, but it is a thousand pities that so many should limit their reading entirely, or almost entirely, to "stories." A change

on the part of the "big public" in the direction of a greater catholicity of taste will be very advantageous, and it will also be good for the novelists themselves, since it will serve to bring home to them the fact—which some of the most popular of them have been inclined to forget—that they are not, after all, the only pebbles on the literary beach.

I imagine, by the way, that the novelists would find the biographers still more serious competitors if the majority of the latter were to take as their model the devastatingly candid and tempestuously breezy style which Lord Fisher has adopted in his astonishing volume of "Memories." Perhaps however, on the whole, it is just as well that the gallant Admiral's literary style should be unique, for there is no knowing what might happen if other writers of reminiscences were to lay about them at large in a similar manner. Lord Fisher—who is evidently not of Sir Lucius O'Trigger's opinion that "damns have had their day"—is, of course, a privileged person, and any ordinary autobiographer who ventured to write with a frankness and lack of reticence remotely approaching his, would bring a hurricane of trouble about his ears. But there can be no question that the public would enjoy it, and would find in such reminiscent indiscretions a powerful counter-attraction even to that of their favourite authors of fiction.

The Twentieth Plane:-A Psychic Revelation.

Messrs. Sampson Low Marton & Co. Ltd., London announces :—

The revelations contained in this book are the most convincing and valuable of any among the remarkable psychological experiences of the last few years.

There is sound substance and good phrasing in the messages whoever the author may be. The medium used by Louis Benjamin, is not considered capable of such thoughts or such language and Dr. Albert Durront Watson, of Toronto, Canada, under whose supervision the sittings were held is beyond suspicion.

Dr. Watson is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, and President of the Association of Psychical Research of Canada.

The book only claims to recount what took place and deserves the attention of every earnest student of psychic phenomena and of that vast body of readers who in the last few months have shown such interest in the possibility of communicating with the dead.

The following is typical of the messages received

Received Dec. 15, 1918.

This revelation was given to your world by people who, when on earth plane, lined lives exactly like your own. It is the fruit of a sincere and sacred effort made by a group of living souls of the Twentieth Astral Plane, to bring light and comfort to those especially who have asked the question: "What ensues after death?"

In the chapters of this work will be found messages from Jesus, Socrates, and many great souls known to the history of earth plane.

The sincere reader will grant one simple request: Do not prejudge the book, but read in the entirety. Think of it as an entity. You may not believe all; you may not realize it now, yet some truths will energise and guidingly inspire you.

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S. L. Coleridge.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

An important decision was arrived at in the High Court to-day. The question was whether the Customs Consolidation Act of 1876, empowering prohibition of importation of arms and ammunition "or any other goods," empowered the Government to exclude all imports. Mr. Justice Sankey answered the question in the negative, holding that the words quoted dealt with goods of the same class as those mentioned. He decided that the Government were not empowered to prohibit certain imports of ordinary peace-time trade and a proclamation purporting to do so was illegal and invalid.

* * *

At the instigation of the Government the Calcutta and Bengal C. I. D. officers are making enquiries into certain alleged malpractices during the course of the war in the Munitions Board. It is said that bribery and corruption have been wholesale and that the Government has suffered an enormous loss. To-day the police searched the books of thirty-one firms in the city who are supposed to have had dealings with the Board. An examination of books that have been seized is being conducted with a view to discover, if possible, the names of the Board who are suspected.

* * *

The Prime Minister gave the following written answer to Colonel Wedgwood, who asked whether instructions would be issued that the flogging of women must cease immediately both in the Crown Colonies and in countries like Egypt, Mesopotamia, or German East Africa, which are under our mandate or protection:—"The flogging of women is forbidden by law in India, Egypt and all Crown Colonies, and every effort is being made to put an end to the practice, so far as it has survived in regions not under the direct administrative control of British Government.

* * *

In the debate in the House of Commons on the vote for the Air Force Mr. Churchill said that £50,000 had been assigned for accomodation stations on the aerial route to Egypt and India. Teis was only beginning the connection. Aerodromes were required at Cairo, Bagdad and Karachi which were on most important sections of the route from England to Australia. There would probably be eight or nine squadrons distributed between Cairo, Baghdad and Karachi. It would be most convenient to allow civil flying on this section which could have the most remarkable effect in buckling the Empire together because of the saving of time for a journey to Australia.

* * *

Several steamers and flats which were lost during recent cyclone are now located. The horn of a steamer is now visible in the river Meghna. One steamer with a flat is lying on the sands north of Mirkadino. Another steamer has been found in Dhal-leswari near Buriganj, while two others have been traced near Bhangyakul. A flat which has been lying near Lohajang station has been taken to Calcutta for repair.

* * *

A heavy explosion has occurred at an ammunition depot at Mariensiel, near Wilhelmhavan, during the unloading of shells. Much damage was done to buildings. Reports received up to the present show that forty-three have been killed and over a hundred wounded.

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A little boy, his eyes wide open with wonder, said after a moment's thought, "Gee! What memory you've got!" "Boston Herald."

***

Anything—"Doctor, I've just received your bill for the operation you performed on me. Would you cut anything off for cash?"

***

She is great on, the subject of germs and sterilises or filters everything in the house.

"How does she get along with her family?"

"I don't know, but even her relations are strained."

Teacher (to class): "Now who can tell me why it is wrong to be cruel to animals?"

***

Muggins: Man live faster than women."

Buggins: "That's right My wife and I were the same age when we were married. I'm forty-five now, and she has only just turned thirty."

***

Teacher: "How is it that Johnny knows his alphabet so much better than you do? He never misses a letter."

Tommy: "Oh, he inherited it. His father is a postman."

***

Few could answer why the half anna stamp is green. Why the half penny is alse green. Why the French five centimes stamp (which is—or was—roughly equivalent to a half anna) is also of the same colour. Why in fact all the stamps of all the nations in the world, of that value are all green.

It is because this colour has been fixed for this value of stamp by the International Convention at Berne. A similar rule applies to the penny stamp and its foreign equivalents, which are all red and to those of the value of 2½d. which are blue.

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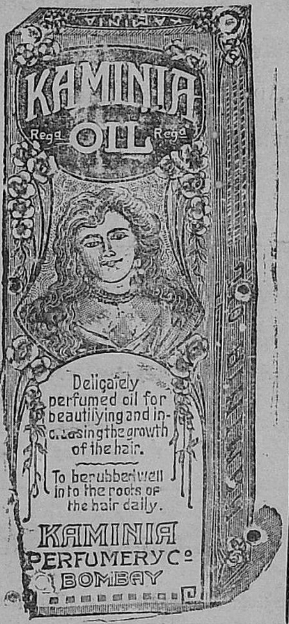

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